

Application No. 10/628,520
Amdt. Dated August 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2004

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A carrying device for attaching around a neck of a bottle below a cap surrounding the bottle neck, the carrying device has a ring segment that is received by the neck below the cap and a hook segment attached to the ring segment, characterized therein that the ring segment is shaped as a substantially planar disc, the hook segment is planar, a hook part of the hook segment extends around more than 180 degrees; the hook segment and the ring segment extend in a common plane; and there is a bendable link having an axle disposed between centers of openings of the hook segment and the ring segment and extending perpendicularly to a connection line between the centers so that the openings of the hook segment and the ring segment are directed coaxially when the carrying device is folded about the link; wherein the opening of the hook segment is substantially the same size as the opening of the ring segment and the hook segment can be folded against the ring segment and both segments can be secured around the bottle neck underneath the cap, or the hook segment can be unfolded for hooking on to an object for carrying the bottle.

2-3. Canceled

4. (Currently amended) The carrying device according to claims claim 1 wherein the carrying device is formed by a planar disc material.

5. (Currently amended) The carrying device according to claims claim 1

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wherein the ring segment has a plurality of inwardly extending tongues along a circumference of an outer circular contour of the opening, and radial inner parts of the tongues are disposed along an inner circular contour that is coaxial with the outer circular contour of the opening.

6. (Currently amended) A carrying device for a bottle comprising:
- (a) a planar ring segment having ~~[[an]]~~ a first opening attachable to a bottle neck, and
 - (b) a planar hook segment having a first end portion connected to the ring segment, the planar hook segment having an and a second open end portion extending around more than 180 degrees forming a second opening attachable to the bottle neck; wherein the second opening has a substantially same size to the first opening; and the planar hook segment extends in a common plane with the planar ring segment and is foldable along an axis line between the hook segment and the ring segment, and the axis line is perpendicularly to a connection line between centers of the openings of the hook segment and the ring segment;
- wherein the ~~planar ring segment and~~ hook segment can be folded against each other the ring segment, and both segments can be secured around the bottle neck ~~[[by]] underneath a bottle cap, or the hook segment can be unfolded for hooking on to an object for carrying the bottle.~~

7. (Original) The carrying device according to claim 6 wherein a thickness of the ring segment is from about 0.5 to about 2.0 millimeters.

8. (Currently amended) The carrying device according to ~~claims~~ claim 7 wherein the openings of the ring segment and the hook segment are circular, ~~and have substantially a same size.~~

9. (Currently amended) The carrying device according to claim 8 wherein

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there are a plurality of incisions around a periphery of the first opening of the ring segment.

10. (Currently amended) The carrying device according to ~~claims~~ claim 9 wherein the planar ring segment has a plurality of inwardly extending tongues along a circumference of an outer circular contour of the first opening, and radial inner parts of the tongues are disposed along an inner circular contour that is coaxial with the outer circular contour of the first opening.

11. Canceled

12. (Currently amended) The carrying device according to ~~claims 11~~ claim 10 wherein the hook segment further comprises enforcement ribs along a surface of the hook segment.

13. (Currently amended) The carrying device according to ~~claims~~ claim 12 wherein the carrying device is made of a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polytetrafluoroethylene, other suitable plastics, and metal.

14. (Currently amended) A bottle and carrying device assembly comprising:

(a) a bottle having a bottle neck and a cap surrounding the bottle neck, and

(b) a carrying device comprising a planar ring segment having an opening ~~attachable to a~~ attached to the bottle neck underneath the cap, and a planar hook segment having a first end portion connected to the ring segment, the planar hook segment having an and a second open end portion extending around more than 180 degrees forming a second opening attachable to the bottle neck; wherein the second opening has a substantially same size to the first opening; and the planar hook

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segment extends in a common plane with the planar ring segment and is foldable along an axis line between the hook segment and the ring segment, and the axis line is perpendicularly to a connection line between centers of the openings of the hook segment and the ring segment; wherein the planar ring segment and hook segment can be folded against each other and the hook segment can be secured around the bottle neck [[by]] underneath the cap for storage, or be unfolded for hooking on to an object for carrying the bottle.

15. (Currently amended) The bottle and carrying device assembly according to ~~claims~~ claim 14 wherein a thickness of the ring segment is from about 0.5 to about 2.0 millimeters.

16. (Currently amended) The bottle and carrying device assembly according to claim 15 wherein the openings of the ring segment and the hook segment are circular, ~~and have substantially a same size.~~

17. (Currently amended) The bottle and carrying device assembly according to claim 16 wherein there are a plurality of incisions around a periphery of the first opening of the ring segment.

18. (Currently amended) The carrying device according to ~~claims~~ claim 17 wherein the hook segment further comprises enforcement ribs along a surface of the hook segment.

19-20 Canceled

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Amendment to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include the proposed Fig. 4.

Attachment: Proposed Replacement Sheet and Annotated Sheet Showing Changes